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Senator Anthony J. Musto
Representative Jim Himes (CT)
Legislative Office Building
Room 2100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

February 4, 2009

RE: HB 6266 - An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture

Dear Representative Himes, Senator Musto:

I am a licensed acupuncturist in your district.

I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 6266 - An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture, which has been raised by the Public Health Committee.

HB 6266 provides Title Protection to acupuncturists in our state. This title protection is an important way to inform and protect health care consumers, and identify the unique credentials of providers with a Connecticut acupuncture license.

It helps consumers find practitioners who are licensed acupuncturists, trained under nationally-recognized accreditation standards in the modality of acupuncture and oriental medicine. It also helps patients understand the credentials of the practitioners who are treating them.

It is important for me as a professional that the bill provides an equitable recognition to state-licensed acupuncturists, giving them the same kind of professional title protection that virtually all other Connecticut health professionals enjoy.

My experience with my patients has been that they are completely unaware of the lack of training of health professionals who practice acupuncture in Connecticut. They feel misled in believing that our profession like any other in the health field is fully regulated and believe that anyone who practices acupuncture should be fully trained and licensed and in Connecticut. This is not the case. This bill will help the public in the future to make informed choices in choosing their acupuncturist.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rita Valentino, LAc

Cc: Senator Jonathan Harris and Representative Elizabeth Ritter
co-chairs, Public Health Committee